

112TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. RES. 460

Expressing support for designation of 2012 as the “Year of the Girl” and celebrating the 100th anniversary of Girl Scouts of the USA.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

NOVEMBER 4, 2011

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ (for herself and Ms. GRANGER) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform

RESOLUTION

Expressing support for designation of 2012 as the “Year of the Girl” and celebrating the 100th anniversary of Girl Scouts of the USA.

Whereas for more than 100 years, Girl Scouts of the USA has inspired generations of girls to lead with courage, confidence, and character;

Whereas the Girl Scout Movement began on March 12, 1912, when Savannah, Georgia, native Juliette “Daisy” Gordon Low gathered 18 girls to provide them the opportunity to develop physically, mentally, and spiritually;

Whereas Daisy Low’s goal was to bring together girls of all backgrounds to develop self-reliance and resourcefulness as well as prepare them for future roles as professional women and for active citizenship outside the home;

Whereas within just a few years, there were nearly 70,000 Girl Scouts nationwide, including the territory of Hawaii;

Whereas the first African-American troops were established in 1917, and by 1920, troops for girls with disabilities were established;

Whereas today, more than 50,000,000 women in the United States are Girl Scout alumnae, and 3,300,000 girls and adult volunteers are active members;

Whereas Girl Scouts live in every corner of the United States, Puerto Rico, United States territories, and more than 90 countries overseas;

Whereas Girl Scouts is the largest member of the World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts, a global movement comprised of more than 10,000,000 girls in 145 countries worldwide;

Whereas Girl Scouts' robust program helps girls develop as leaders and build confidence by learning new skills;

Whereas the award winning Girl Scout Leadership Program helps girls discover themselves and their values, connect with others, and take action to make the world a better place;

Whereas this leadership model helps girls develop skills such as critical thinking, problem solving, cooperation and team building, conflict resolution, advocacy, and other important life skills;

Whereas core programs around Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM), environmental stewardship, healthy living, financial literacy, and global citizenship help girls develop a solid foundation in leadership;

Whereas Girl Scouts' STEM programming, first introduced in 1913 with the "electrician" and "flyer" badges, offers girls of every age science, technology, engineering, and math activities that are relevant to everyday life;

Whereas these award-winning programs help girls build strong, hands-on foundations to become future female leaders and meet the growing need for skilled science and technology professionals in the United States;

Whereas healthy living programs help Girl Scouts build the skills they need to keep their bodies healthy, their minds engaged, and their spirits positive and teaches girls about fitness and nutrition, body image, self esteem, and relational issues, especially bullying;

Whereas through the 100th Anniversary Take Action Project, Forever Green, Girl Scouts is honoring Daisy Low's commitment to the outdoors by engaging families, friends, and communities to improve the environment and protect its natural resources;

Whereas Girl Scouts' financial literacy programming, notably, the iconic Girl Scout cookie sale, helps girls set financial goals and gain the confidence they need to ultimately take control of their own financial future;

Whereas this beloved United States tradition has a proven legacy, more than 80 percent of highly successful businesswomen were Girl Scouts;

Whereas Girl Scouts has also helped millions of young girls become good global citizens through international exchanges, travel, take action and service projects, and newer programs like "twinning" and virtual Girl Scout troops;

Whereas Girl Scouts has helped girls advance diversity in a multicultural world, connect with their communities, locally and globally, and feel empowered to make a difference in the world;

Whereas the Girl Scout Gold Award, the highest honor in Girl Scouting, requires girls to make a measurable and sustainable difference in their community, assess a need and design a solution, find the resources and the support to make it happen, complete the project, and also inspire others to sustain it;

Whereas the Gold Award honors leadership in the Girl Scout tradition and Gold Award recipients have already changed the world as high school students;

Whereas two-thirds of the Nation's most accomplished women in public service were Girl Scouts;

Whereas Girl Scouts' research shows that Girl Scouts alumnae have a positive sense of self, are engaged in community service, are civically engaged, have attained high levels of education, and are successful on a number of economic indicators;

Whereas beyond its outstanding program, Girl Scouts has evolved into the premier expert on girls' healthy growth and development;

Whereas since its founding in 2000, the Girl Scout Research Institute has become an internationally recognized center for original research, research reviews, and surveys that provide significant insights into the lives of girls;

Whereas Girl Scouts' research informs not only Girl Scouts' program development and delivery, but also helps bring girls' voices to key issues in the public sphere;

Whereas by bringing greater attention to girls’ health, education, and developmental needs, Girl Scouts is the voice for girls with policymakers, business leaders, educators, and all other stakeholders who care about girls’ healthy growth and development;

Whereas Girl Scouts ensures that issues, such as STEM education, bullying prevention, unhealthy perceptions of beauty as portrayed by the media, and many other important issues, are brought to the public’s attention, and addressed through public policy at the national, State, and local level; and

Whereas Girl Scouts of the USA is recognizing its 100th anniversary by designating 2012 as the “Year of the Girl”:
Now, therefore, be it

- 1 *Resolved*, That the House of Representatives—
- 2 (1) recognizes the importance of empowering
- 3 girls to lead with courage, confidence, and character;
- 4 (2) congratulates Girl Scouts of the USA on its
- 5 100th anniversary; and
- 6 (3) supports the “Year of the Girl”.

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